



With 2018 well and truly here, we wanted to thank all our supporters for such a successful year in 2017, and for making a positive impact on child health through supporting life-saving research.

Last year saw Cure Kids' highest year of research funding in our 46-year history - we committed over \$5 million to more than 20 different research projects, thanks to the support of generous donors like you.

These projects give genuine hope to thousands of families, both here and around the world, through better health outcomes for their children. Below we have outlined in more detail the successful research projects.

Last year also saw Cure Kids' first government-funding collaboration with the [A Better Start - National Science Challenge, which saw the co-funding of \\$2.8 million going into child health research](#). The programme of research has a particular focus on four areas of child health: improving early literacy, child and adolescent mental health, reducing childhood obesity, and finding better treatments for children with autism spectrum disorder.

We look forward to working with you towards another successful year in supporting child health research, and addressing New Zealand's alarming child health rates.

Donate to support child health research

2017 Cure Kids Annual Granting Round



Cure Kids ambassadors, Emily and Evie, who live with type-1 diabetes.

We are proud to have supported seven research projects in our 2017 Cure Kids Annual Granting Round (CKAGT), all of which have begun this year.

The CKAGT is a contestable, and highly competitive, funding round, where we challenge New Zealand's top researchers to come up with solutions to health issues affecting children.

The AGT attracts many of New Zealand's brightest researchers in their respective fields, and this year has seen a wide-ranging and compelling mix of projects.

Some of the projects include, improving the diagnosis and treatment for inherited retinal blindness, and investigating ways of better understanding the physiology of a preterm baby's brain when starved of oxygen, in utero or at birth.

One of the funded projects, centres around helping young people with type 1 diabetes better manage their condition.

[Learn more about the research](#)

Managing diabetes in a 'flash': Exploring a novel glucose monitoring system among adolescents with poorly controlled type 1 diabetes - Dr Ben Wheeler

Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is an autoimmune disease which often presents in early adolescence.

The immune system mistakenly attacks insulin-producing cells in the pancreas, leaving these cells incapable of producing insulin.

As insulin is a critical hormone in the process of controlling glucose levels in the blood, when the body fails to effectively produce it, people with the disease are left vulnerable to serious blood sugar fluctuations which can be extremely dangerous.

There are approximately 2500 children and youth, aged 0 – 18, living with T1D in New Zealand.

While T1D is currently incurable, there are treatments available, but unfortunately all have a considerable impact on a person's day-to-day life. These treatments also require considerable precision, routine, and vigilance; traits not usually found in abundance in teens.

Dr Ben Wheeler from the University of Otago is running a trial to see whether a novel glucose-monitoring system can improve teenagers' compliance with their treatment.

[Read more about Dr Wheeler's project](#)

Tracy's Journey with Jenna

Cure Kids ambassador Jenna lives with type-1 diabetes, Trisomy 21, and alopecia. Mum Tracy, shares their journey:

"We don't look at Jenna's journey as being challenging. We focus on the positives even when things are really hard we try remain upbeat because this helps Jenna not to feel overwhelmed. We've had lots of curve balls thrown our way since she was born, from the undetected through pregnancy Trisomy 21, to the eye surgeries, heart surgeries, her hair falling out and the diagnosis of diabetes.

She has battled like a trooper and she gives us the strength to not crumble in a heap and throw our hands up in the air and feel sorry for ourselves.

And why should we, we have been given a beautiful little girl that fills people's hearts with happiness and shows people that sometimes life can be unfair but you can't walk through life feeling like you're being punished, you live every day like it's a new day."



Tracy's Journey with Jenna



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